29th November 1928]

A.—(*a*) The Industrial Laboratory was started at Coonoor on 18th September 1919 with the object of investigating certain minor industries and industrial problems of the Presidency.

(*b*) Sir Frederick Nicholson was in charge of the laboratory till April 1922 when Mr. S. Venkataraman, who had previously been appointed Chemical Assistant to Sir F. Nicholson, was placed in direct charge, and from October 1922 the laboratory was transferred to Madras with the name of the Government Industrial Institute. Mr. Venkataraman continues to be in charge.

(*c*) Fluid inks of a quality equal to that of imported inks have been manufactured at this institute. Ink powders and ink tablets have also been produced. The preliminary experiments on the manufacture of printers' inks undertaken at the institute have yielded promising results and consequently arrangements are in progress with a view to the manufacture of one or two varieties of printers' inks on a semi-commercial scale.

(*d*) The work of the institute is carried out as expeditiously as possible. An indent has been placed with the Stores Department, London, for the supply of certain machinery required in connexion with the manufacture of printers' inks and when this is received the work on the manufacture of printers' inks is expected to develop more rapidly.

(*e*) A programme of work to be undertaken at the institute during the next few years is under consideration. The industries that have been suggested for study are adhesives, lamp black, boot polishes, and creams, lacquers and sealing wax. It is not possible to say how long it will take to complete the programme of experimental work or obtain definite results.

Finished products in the Government Industrial Institute, Madura.

813 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to furnish details of—

(*a*) the finished products on hand on 31st December 1927 or any other later date for which information is available, in the Government Industrial Institute, Madura; and

(*b*) the value of the articles out of them, which were on hand in the institute on 30th June 1927 and 31st December 1926, respectively?

A.—(*a*) The value of finished products on hand on 31st March 1928, the latest date for which information is available, was Rs. 4,771-1-1.

(*b*) Out of the above, stock valued at Rs. 1,601-6-3 was over three years old. The Government have no information as to how much of the stock that was on hand on 31st December 1926 and 30th June 1927 was on hand on 31st March 1928.